



APPENDIX 5: UDJC CIRCUIT CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

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United Dressage and Jumping Club, LLC
www.udjc.org
8811 FM 359 Richmond, TX 77406
info@udjc.org
United States of America

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CHAPTER 1 GENERAL RULES AND STRUCTURE

ARTICLE 100 PURPOSE

This Appendix regulates all UDJC Circuit Championship Finals, including qualification pathways, eligibility rules, and competition formats for **Open Championships, Elite Youth Championships, and Young Horse Championships**. It is binding for all participants, officials, and organizing committees involved in UDJC Circuit Finals.

ARTICLE 101 STATUS OF THE CIRCUIT FINALS

The UDJC Circuit Finals are the culminating event of each UDJC season. They bring together qualified horses and riders from across the Circuit in the disciplines of **Jumping, Dressage, and Hunters**, including the designated Young Horse divisions.

ARTICLE 102 – RELATIONSHIP TO THE MAIN RULEBOOK

This Appendix is an official addition to the UDJC Rulebook and the UDJC Equipment Catalog.

Where questions arise, the following shall apply:

1. All rules regarding **horse welfare, safety, performance levels, and general competition conduct** from the main Rulebook and the Equipment Catalog remain fully in force.
2. The provisions contained in this Appendix apply specifically to the Championship Finals and prevail in matters exclusive to Finals structure, qualification, eligibility, and class format.

ARTICLE 103 CHAMPIONSHIP PATHS

UDJC recognizes three distinct Championship structures at the Circuit Finals:

1. **OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS**
 - All levels and disciplines
 - Qualification attached to the rider
2. **ELITE YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS**
 - Age-group and level-specific

- Qualification attached to the horse–rider combination
3. **YOUNG HORSE CHAMPIONSHIPS**
- Age-based and level-based
 - Qualification attached to the horse

ARTICLE 104 HORSE-RIDER ELIGIBILITY AT FINALS

- a) Each rider may compete with **only one horse per Championship level** in Open and Elite Youth Championships.
- b) A rider may compete with **up to three horses per Young Horse division**.
- c) Riders must compete in the **same Championship level** at the Finals for which they earned qualification.
- d) Riders may compete in multiple Championships of **different disciplines** with the **same horse**, provided qualification has been earned.
- e) Riders may compete in multiple Championships of the **same discipline** if riding **different qualified horses**.
- f) For all Championships, the **same horse-rider combination must complete every class** that forms part of a Championship division.
A substitution of either the horse or the rider at any point during the Championship Finals is strictly prohibited, and doing so renders the combination ineligible for Championship ranking and medals.
- f) Elite Youth riders may compete in **higher age divisions**, but never in lower ones.
- g) Young horses must compete **strictly within their designated age division** and may not move up or down.

ARTICLE 105 FOUNDATION SHOWS VS. CIRCUIT SHOWS

1. UDJC Foundation Shows

Competitions typically held at UDJC-approved riding schools, offering Dressage, Jumping, and optionally Hunters up to at least Level L, pathway for **Open** Championships.

2. UDJC Circuit Shows

Major regional UDJC events offer all three disciplines and provide qualification pathways for **Open**, **Elite Youth** and **Young Horse** Championships.

Qualification Sources:

- Open Championships: Foundation Shows and Circuit Shows
- Elite Youth Championships: Circuit Shows only
- Young Horse Championships: Circuit Shows only

ARTICLE 106 RANKING PROTECTION MECHANISM

For details see UDJC Rule Book Article 123

The UDJC Ranking Protection Mechanism applies to all **Open** Championship Finals and ranking systems.

It does **not** apply to Elite Youth Championships or Young Horse Championships.

The mechanism ensures fairness for riders competing at the correct Performance Level when higher-level ("push-away") riders are present.

ARTICLE 107 CHAMPIONSHIP MEDAL RANKINGS

For each UDJC Circuit Championship - across all disciplines and levels - UDJC awards Gold, Silver, and Bronze Championship titles based on the overall Championship ranking, independent of individual class or round placings.

- a) Championship titles and ribbons are awarded to the riders or horse-rider combinations (as applicable) finishing first, second, and third in the total Championship results after all required rounds or tests have been completed.
- b) These Championship titles are separate from and in addition to any individual class placings a rider or horse may earn during the Finals.
- c) Championship medal rankings are determined exclusively by the cumulative scoring system defined in the applicable Championship format articles of this Appendix.
- d) Championship medals are recorded in the official UDJC Championship results and recognized as the official standings for that level, age division, or Young Horse category.

CHAPTER 2 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

ARTICLE 200 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP FRAMEWORK

Open Championships are offered at **every UDJC level** in Dressage, Jumping, and Hunters, from Pre-B through S***.

Participation is open to any UDJC member who:

1. Holds the appropriate Performance Level, and
2. Has fulfilled the qualification requirements defined herein.

Open Championships are **level-based**, not age-based.

ARTICLE 201 OPEN QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

Qualification belongs to the **rider**, not the horse or the horse–rider combination.

- a) A rider may earn qualifying results on any number of horses.
- b) At the Finals, the qualified rider may compete on any eligible horse.
- c) The rider has to use the same horse for all Final classes in a division.
- c) The Finals horse is not required to have earned any qualification scores.
- d) Qualification may be earned at Foundation Shows and Circuit Shows.

ARTICLE 202 OPEN JUMPING QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for the Open Jumping Championship at a given level, a rider must:

1. Complete **six (6)** classes in that level with a **6.5 or higher** in style classes, **or**
2. Achieve **six (6)** clear rounds in timed classes at that level.
3. A Mix of 1. and 2.

ARTICLE 203 OPEN DRESSAGE QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for the Open Dressage Championship at a given level, a rider must:

1. Complete **six (6)** classes in that level, each with a **score of at least 6.5 (decimal)** or **65%**, depending on test format.

For the purpose of qualification, riders must obtain all six (6) required results in the specific test category of the Championship they intend to enter.

Benchmark and Ability tests at the same level are considered separate Championships and may not be combined to meet qualification requirements.

Example:

A rider qualifying for a Benchmark A Championship Finals must earn six (6) qualifying scores in Benchmark A tests only, and may not combine scores from Ability A and Benchmark A.

ARTICLE 204 OPEN HUNTER QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for the Open Hunter Championship at a given height, a rider must:

1. Achieve **two (2)** divisional averages of **6.5 or higher** at that height.
2. Divisional average is calculated across the **entire** Hunter division at that show.

ARTICLE 205 RANKING PROTECTION IN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Ranking Protection Mechanism described in the main UDJC Rulebook **ARTICLE 123** applies fully to all Open Championship results.

a) Only Open Championships use ranking protection. Elite Youth Championships and Young Horse Championships are not subject to ranking protection.

b) In each Open Championship level and discipline, UDJC awards **two sets of Championship titles** under the Ranking Protection Mechanism:

1. **Regular Championship Titles (Gold, Silver, Bronze):**

Awarded to the top three riders who are competing within their correct Performance Level at that height or test level.

2. **Push-Away Championship Medals (Gold, Silver, Bronze):**

Awarded to the top three riders who are overqualified for the level.

These medal results are recorded separately in the official Championship standings.

ARTICLE 206 OPEN JUMPING FORMAT AT THE FINALS

STYLE CLASSES GROUP FORMAT (0.40 m, 0.50 m, 0.65 m)

- a) Championship consists of three (3) classes of the same height.
- b) The final Championship score is the sum of all three class scores.
- c) In case of a tie, the score of Class 3 is counted twice and used as tie-breaker.

STYLE CLASSES INDIVIDUAL FORMAT (0.75m, 0.85m)

- a) Championship consists of four (4) classes:
 - Three (3) style jumping rounds, plus
 - One (1) dressage test - Ability A*.
- b) Total Championship score = sum of all four results.
- c) In case of a tie, the dressage test score is doubled and used as tie-breaker.

JUMPING TIMED CLASSES (typically 0.95 m and above)

- a) Championship consists of four (4) Against-the-Clock (ATC) rounds.
- b) Round 1 determines the order of go for the Final Round (fourth round).
- c) Round 3 includes a Joker Jump, scored as follows:
 - Clear: -4 faults off of total championship score.
 - Fault (knockdown or refusal): +4 faults off of total championship score.
 - Only one attempt is permitted.
 - The Joker Jump is attempted after the rider crosses the finish line of the regular course. The rider may walk while awaiting the judge's signal, and the judge will ring the bell when the Joker attempt is permitted. Attempting the Joker is entirely optional and left to the rider's discretion.
 - If a rider has fewer than 4 total faults after the third round, successfully clearing the Joker Jump will reduce the score into the negative range.
- d) After all four rounds, a jump-off is held to break ties for medal positions.

ARTICLE 207 OPEN DRESSAGE FORMAT AT THE FINALS

- a) Championship consists of three (3) tests in the relevant level.
- b) The total Championship result is the sum of the three scores.
- c) In case of a tie, the score from Test 3 is doubled and used as tie-breaker.

ARTICLE 208 OPEN HUNTER FORMAT AT THE FINALS

a) The Open Hunter Championship is ridden as a full division of five (5) classes:

- One (1) Under Saddle class
- Two (2) Over-Fences (OF) rounds
- Two (2) Handy Hunter rounds

b) The final Championship score is the sum of all five individual class scores.

c) In case of a tie, the second Handy round is doubled and used as tie-breaker.

CHAPTER 3 ELITE YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

ARTICLE 300 ELITE YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP FRAMEWORK

Elite Youth Championships are age-group-specific and level-specific:

- **Pony:** Riders 16 and under (Pony Passport required)
- **Children:** Riders 14 and under
- **Juniors:** Riders 18 and under
- **Young Riders:** Riders 21 and under

Age is determined by calendar year, not birthday.

Example: Riders born in 2011 are considered 14 for the entire 2025 season.

ARTICLE 301 QUALIFICATION PRINCIPLES

Qualification belongs to the horse-rider combination.

- a) Only the qualified combination may start in the Final.
- b) A different horse requires new qualification.
- c) Qualifications may be earned only at UDJC Circuit Shows.

ARTICLE 302 ELITE YOUTH JUMPING QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

A minimum of 25 horse-rider combinations per division will qualify for the Elite Youth Jumping Championship Finals.

All classes at UDJC Circuit Shows held at the corresponding Championship level count as official qualifying classes for the Elite Youth Jumping Championships.

Criteria 1 – Guaranteed Qualification

A combination qualifies directly by meeting the following requirements:

- **Pony Division** (0.75 m / Level E**):
Six (6) scores of 7.5 or higher in style classes.
- **Children Division** (0.95 m / Level A**):
Six (6) clear rounds at the designated height.
- **Juniors Division** (1.15 m / Level L**):
Six (6) clear rounds at the designated height.
- **Young Riders Division** (1.25 m / Level M*):
Six (6) clear rounds at the designated height.

Criteria 2 – Lucky Loser

If fewer than twenty-five (25) combinations meet the Guaranteed Qualification, remaining Championship spots will be filled by the highest-ranked combinations on the UDJC points list for that specific division and level, based solely on results earned in UDJC Circuit Shows.

ARTICLE 303 ELITE YOUTH DRESSAGE QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

A minimum of 25 horse-rider combinations per division will qualify for the Elite Youth Dressage Championship Finals.

All Dressage classes at UDJC Circuit Shows that are held at the corresponding Championship level count as official qualifying classes for the Elite Youth Dressage Championships.

Criteria 1 – Guaranteed Qualification

A combination qualifies directly by meeting the following requirements:

- **Pony Division** (Benchmark E):
Six (6) scores of **7.0 or higher**.
- **Children Division** (Benchmark E):
Six (6) scores of **7.0 or higher**.
- **Juniors Division** (Ability A):
Six (6) scores of **7.0 or higher**.

- **Young Riders** Division (Ability L):
Six (6) scores of **7.0 or higher**.

Criteria 2 – Lucky Loser

If fewer than twenty-five (25) combinations achieve Guaranteed Qualification, remaining Championship places are filled by the highest points rankings for that specific age division and level, based solely on results earned in UDJC Circuit Shows.

ARTICLE 304 ELITE YOUTH HUNTER QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

A minimum of 25 horse-rider combinations per division will qualify for the Elite Youth Hunter Championship Finals.

All Hunter classes at UDJC Circuit Shows held at the corresponding Championship height count as official qualifying classes for the Elite Youth Hunter Championships.

Criteria 1 – Guaranteed Qualification

A combination qualifies directly by meeting the following requirements:

- **Pony Division (2'3"):**
Two (2) divisional averages of **7.0 or higher**.
- **Children Division (2'6"):**
Two (2) divisional averages of **7.0 or higher**.
- **Juniors Division (3'0"):**
Two (2) divisional averages of **7.0 or higher**.
- **Young Riders Division (3'6"):**
Two (2) divisional averages of **7.0 or higher**.

Criteria 2 – Lucky Loser

If fewer than twenty-five (25) combinations achieve Guaranteed Qualification, remaining spots are awarded to the combinations with the highest points rankings for that specific division and height, based solely on results earned in UDJC Circuit Shows.

ARTICLE 305 ELITE YOUTH FINALS FORMAT

At the Finals, Elite Youth Championships follow the same discipline-specific formats as Open Championships (Articles 206-208), unless otherwise stated in the prize list.

CHAPTER 4 YOUNG HORSE CHAMPIONSHIPS

ARTICLE 400 YOUNG HORSE FRAMEWORK

Young Horse Championships identify and promote high-quality prospects in Dressage, Jumping, and Hunters.

Qualification belongs exclusively to the horse, not the rider.

Jumping Divisions

- 4-year-olds: 0.65 m (E*)
- 5-year-olds: 0.85 m (A*)
- 6-year-olds: 1.05 m (L*)
- 7-year-olds: 1.25 m (M*)

Dressage Divisions

- 3-year-olds: YH Test E
- 4-year-olds: YH Test E
- 5-year-olds: YH Test A
- 6-year-olds: YH Test L
- 7-year-olds: YH Test M

Hunter Divisions

- 4-year-olds: Young Hunter Concept
- 5-year-olds: 2'6"
- 6-year-olds: 2'9"

ARTICLE 401 YOUNG HORSE QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

Minimum 25 horses per division qualify.

- a) Each horse must start in at least three qualifiers.
- b) The horse may be ridden by different riders during qualification.
- c) The horse has to be ridden by the same rider throughout the Final classes.

Criteria 1 – Guaranteed Qualification

For all Dressage Horses, Hunters and Jumpers 4-6 year-olds:

- One score of 8.0 or higher

For all 7- year-old Jumpers:

- Three clear rounds at 1.25 m

Criteria 2 – Lucky Loser

Remaining spots awarded based on the highest average of the horse's best three qualifiers.

ARTICLE 402 YOUNG HORSE FINAL FORMATS

1. YOUNG JUMPERS

- 4-, 5-, and 6-year-olds: judged on rideability, technique, suitability
- 7-year-olds: compete in ATC (timed) format

a) Opening Round

The Opening Round serves solely as an acclimation phase for the horses. It is not included in the Championship ranking and has no influence on qualification for the Final.

b) Qualifying Round

The Qualifying Round determines which horses advance to the Final. The top fifty percent (50%) of starters, with a minimum of ten (10) horses, shall advance. All horses that are tied for the final qualifying position shall likewise advance to the Final.

c) Final Round

The Final Round determines the official Championship placings for the division. All horses shall begin the Final on a score of zero, with no points or penalties carried over from prior rounds.

In the event of a tie in the Final, the Qualifier Round score shall be used as the tie-breaker.

2. YOUNG DRESSAGE HORSES

a) Opening Class

The Opening Class serves exclusively as an acclimation opportunity for the horses and riders.

It is not included in the Championship ranking and does not influence qualification for the Final Class.

b) Qualifying Class

The Qualifying Class determines which horses will advance to the Final Class.

The top fifty percent (50%) of starters, with a minimum of ten (10) horses, shall advance.

All horses that are tied for the last qualifying position shall also advance to the Final Class.

c) Final Class

The Final Class determines the official Championship placings for the division.

All horses begin the Final Class on a score of zero, with no marks carried forward from previous phases.

In the event of a tie in the Final Class, the Qualifying Class score shall be used as the official tie-breaker.

3. YOUNG HUNTERS

a) Opening Round

The Opening Round is intended purely for acclimation and is not part of the Championship ranking.

Scores from this round have no influence on qualification for the Final Round.

b) Qualifier Round

The Qualifier Round determines advancement to the Final Round.

The top fifty percent (50%) of starters, with a minimum of ten (10) horses, shall

advance to the Final Round.

All horses that are tied for the final qualifying position shall likewise advance.

c) Final Round

The Final Round decides the Championship placings for the division.

All horses begin the Final Round on a score of zero, with no carry-over of marks from the Qualifier.

Should a tie occur on the Final Round score, the Qualifier Round score shall serve as the official tie-breaker.